

What is claimed is:

1. An electronic device having an interface for data transfer composed of a signal line and a power supply line with a limited maximum allowable current, characterized in that

said electronic device has at least two ports of said interface, and

said electronic device as a whole is adapted to operate with more current consumption than is admitted through a single port of said interface.

2. The electronic device according to claim 1, wherein said interface has specifications that the supply of predetermined electric power to the electronic device from an external equipment with power supply function is permitted only when predetermined communication is performed between the electronic device and the external equipment via the interface, and wherein said electronic device comprises:

control means connected to each of said at least two ports of the interface;

a body portion connected to said control means; and

power supply control means connected between each respective power supply line of said at least two ports of the interface and a power supply line of said body portion,

wherein said control means performs on-control of said power supply control means only when the supply of predetermined electric power through each of said at least two ports of the interface is permitted as a result of communication between said control means and the external equipment.

3. The electronic device according to claim 1, wherein said interface has specifications that the supply of predetermined electric power to the electronic device from an external equipment with power supply function is permitted

ted only when predetermined communication is performed between the electronic device and the external equipment via the interface, and wherein said electronic device comprises:

control means connected to each of said at least two ports of the interface; and

a body portion connected to said control means,

wherein said control means, on the basis of the result of communication with the external equipment, controls said body portion in such a manner that at least part of functions of said body portion can not be used until the supply of predetermined electric power through each of said at least two ports of the interface is permitted, and all of the functions of said body portion become available only when the supply of predetermined electric power through each of said at least two ports of the interface is permitted.

4. The electronic device according to claim 1, wherein said interface has specifications that the supply of predetermined electric power to the electronic device from an external equipment with power supply function is permitted only when predetermined communication is performed between the electronic device and the external equipment via the interface, and wherein said electronic device comprises:

control means connected to each of said at least two ports of the interface; and

a body portion connected to said control means,

wherein said control means, on the basis of the result of communication with the external equipment, controls said body portion in such a manner that at least part of functions of said body portion can be used with limited performance until the supply of predetermined electric power through each of said at least two ports of the interface is permitted, and all of the functions of said body portion become available without limitations only when the supply of pre-

determined electric power through each of said at least two ports of the interface is permitted.

5        5. The electronic device according to claim 1, wherein said interface has specifications that the supply of predetermined electric power to the electronic device from an external equipment with power supply function is permitted only when predetermined communication is performed between the electronic device and the external equipment via the interface, and wherein said electronic device comprises:

10        control means connected to each of said at least two ports of the interface; and

15        a body portion connected to said control means and adapted to perform substantive data transmission and reception with respect to the external equipment,

20        wherein said substantive data transmission and reception between said body portion and the external equipment is carried out through one of said at least two ports of the interface.

25        6. The electronic device according to claim 1, wherein said body portion comprises an information storage device.

      7. The electronic device according to claim 2, wherein said body portion comprises an information storage device.

      8. The electronic device according to claim 3, wherein said body portion comprises an information storage device.

      9. The electronic device according to claim 4, wherein said body portion

tion comprises an information storage device.

10. The electronic device according to claim 5, wherein said body portion comprises an information storage device.

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11. The electronic device according to claim 3, wherein said body portion comprises a disk recording and reproducing device, and said at least part of the functions is a data recording function.

10 12. The electronic device according to claim 4, wherein said body portion comprises a disk recording and reproducing device, and said at least part of the functions with limited performance is disk rotation speed.

13. The electronic device according to claim 2, wherein said interface is a USB interface, said predetermined communication is a configuration operation, and said control means comprises a device controller.

14. The electronic device according to claim 3, wherein said interface is a USB interface, said predetermined communication is a configuration operation, and said control means comprises a device controller.

15. The electronic device according to claim 4, wherein said interface is a USB interface, said predetermined communication is a configuration operation, and said control means comprises a device controller.

16. The electronic device according to claim 5, wherein said interface is a USB interface, said predetermined communication is a configuration operation.

tion, and said control means comprises a device controller.

17. The electronic device according to claim 6, wherein said interface is a USB interface, said predetermined communication is a configuration operation, and said control means comprises a device controller.

18. The electronic device according to claim 7, wherein said interface is a USB interface, said predetermined communication is a configuration operation, and said control means comprises a device controller.

19. The electronic device according to claim 8, wherein said interface is a USB interface, said predetermined communication is a configuration operation, and said control means comprises a device controller.

20. The electronic device according to claim 9, wherein said interface is a USB interface, said predetermined communication is a configuration operation, and said control means comprises a device controller.

21. The electronic device according to claim 10, wherein said interface is a USB interface, said predetermined communication is a configuration operation, and said control means comprises a device controller.

22. The electronic device according to claim 11, wherein said interface is a USB interface, said predetermined communication is a configuration operation, and said control means comprises a device controller.

23. The electronic device according to claim 12, wherein said interface is a USB interface, said predetermined communication is a configuration operation, and said control means comprises a device controller.

24. A USB device comprising:

a first device controller adapted to be connected to a host machine;

a second device controller connected to said first device controller and

5 being adapted to be connected to the host machine; and

a controlled device connected to said first device controller.

25. The USB device according to claim 24, wherein said first device  
controller is configured to undertake transmission and reception of information  
10 between said controlled device and the host machine after each of said first and  
second device controllers has completed a connection procedure with respect to  
the host machine.

26. The USB device according to claim 24, wherein said first device  
15 controller is configured to control operation of said controlled device in such a  
manner that the controlled device operates with current consumption below a  
maximum value as specified by the USB Standard on conditions that said first  
device controller has completed a connection procedure with respect to the host  
machine and said second drive controller has not completed a connection proce-  
20 dure with respect the host machine.

27. The USB device according to claim 24, wherein said first device  
controller is configured to control operation of said controlled device in such a  
manner that the controlled device operates with current consumption below a  
25 maximum value as specified by the USB Standard on conditions that said sec-  
ond drive controller has completed a connection procedure with respect the host  
machine and said first device controller has not completed a connection proce-  
dure with respect to the host machine.

28. The USB device according to claim 24, wherein said first and second device controllers are integrated into a unitary structure.